

The Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

## February Meeting

As we go to press we are unable to inform you of the speaker or topic of the February meeting. Listen to area nets for more late breaking information.

## VHF Sweeps

The 1987 January VHF Sweepstakes contest is now history. How did you do? Jeff, K1BE, put together a list of club scores for the past 30 years. Check the table below to see how we've done!

As the table indicates, the Hampden County Radio Association has been consistently in the top ten for over a generation of VHF/UHF contesting. Your assistance in helping us meet our goal of first place would be sincerely appreciated. Please send copies of your logs and summary sheets to the club mailing address soon, so that we may include your score in our grand total. Every point counts, even if you only made a hundred or two points!

The 1982 score of 282,094 remains the club's all time high score. Will we top it this year? It was close last year!

1957	45,015	4th
1958	195,501	3rd
1959	76,941	6th
1960	33,917	15th
1961	19,841	24th
1962	33,564	14th
1963	20,252	28th
1965	37,760	14th
1966	47,730	9th
1967	58,841	9th
1968	42,796	6th
1969	67,994	6th
1970	105,736	5th
1971	123,898	4th
1972	57,336	8th
1974	16,838	9th
1975	35,394	7th
1976	42,771	8th
1977	31,570	8th
1978	13,358	15th
1979	93,570	5th

1980	142,566	3rd
1981	213,746	2nd
1982	282,094	1st
1983	280,576	1st
1984	132,969	3rd
1985	192,556	3rd
1986	263,089	3rd

de Fred N1DPM

## W1OD Leaves

Mike Kaczynski, W1OD, has resigned as Contest Manager effective mid-January. Since 1979, Mike has served in a number of positions in the Technical and Communications Departments. Mike has been accepted into the Air Traffic Controllers Academy in Oklahoma City, OK. The new contest manager is Billy Lunt, KR1R. Billy has served as assistant contest manager for the past 18 months.

de ARRL Letter

## Novice Enhancement

Novice Enhancement is coming! The FCC is expected to release its final decision soon on the new rules allowing expanded operating frequencies and modes for Novices. Michael Fitch, new Chief of the FCC's Personal Radio Bureau, says in an interview in February *QST* that the Report and Order "may even be out by the time this interview is printed." W1AW, *The ARRL Letter* and upcoming issues of *QST* will carry full details about the expected announcement.

## Exam Credit

There is none — yet. As of January 1, 1987, the FCC had still not received the go-ahead from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) concerning the proposed changes in the FCC Form 610 needed to implement the proposal. The new rules for written exam credit do not go into effect until OMB approval is secured. FCC has had to correct earlier notices it had issued on this subject.

As noted elsewhere in *Zero Beat*, the FCC is expected to announce the final results of the Novice Enhancement shortly. The delay in the exam credit has been tied to the fact that the Novice Enhancement would also require a change in the FCC 610 form, and the Office of Management and Budget may be holding approval due to the upcoming Novice changes. Keep your ear to the radio for more late breaking news!

## Peach Festival

On Sunday August 31, 1986, seven members and friends of the HCRA participated in the town of Wilbraham's annual Peach Festival Parade. Five days prior to the parade Steve WA1EYF was approached because the officials realized that some type of communication would be absolutely essential to the successful execution and control of a parade that stretched for almost 1 1/2 miles. Even with such short notice, Bob KA1KPH, Ned NB1R, John AC1T, Ray WB1GLX, Yorke K1BXE, Dave KA1MYN, and Steve WA1EYF were able to provide communications via both direct and the KA1JJM 2m and KA1KPH 70cm repeaters. The parade committee, Peach Festival Chairman, and public officials were so impressed with the valuable assistance we provided that they asked us to help out next year and made Steve part of the parade committee. Kudos to those who came to the rescue on such short notice!

de Steve WA1EYF

## ARRL Membership

Year-end US ARRL membership figures are in and they show an increase of 3,174 members, or 2.36%. The Pacific Division registered the largest gain (over 4%) followed by the New England, Southwestern, Roanoke, and Rocky Mountain Divisions with gains of over 3%. Thanks to all who helped with our large fall mailing which brought in a number of new members to both the HCRA and League.

## Pilot Program

The HCRA will be sponsoring a Novice license class that will include a pilot test of new ARRL morse code training materials. Through this pilot program the League will determine which of a number of methods and techniques will be utilized with future code tapes supplied with *Tune in the World*. Your help in making these tapes a high quality item is greatly needed.

The League is looking for between 24 to 36 individuals to participate through HCRA sponsorship in this test program. These individuals must not have previously attempted to learn the code to be of value to the League in their study. Although the League only wants to gather statistics from those who have not attempted the code, the HCRA will make these materials available to anyone who has a sincere interest in learning the code and/or obtaining the Novice license.

Students will be required to spend between 15 and 30 minutes per day for a period of three to four weeks working with the code tapes. They will be provided with a work book that goes along with the code, which will be returned to the League for observations to be made regarding the success of the techniques presented on the code tapes. There will be NO cost for the code tapes and work books.

Formal classes will also be offered in conjunction with the pilot code program. Although we have not confirmed a date and time for the start of the classes, it is expected they will be offered on Wednesday evenings at the Agawam High School. Usually we run the classes from 7:00 PM to 9:00 or 9:30 PM. Students will be required to have a recent copy of *Tune in the World* from the League. Please remember that the HCRA has copies of ARRL license manuals including *Tune in the World* available for purchase at the class session.

The HCRA would also like to invite anyone who can't make it to the classes to work with us on this program. We'll make the tapes and *Tune in the World* available, assist with any on-going problems, and administer the Novice examinations. This may be good for scout troops, sons or daughters, and anyone who is unable to attend the formal classes.

This program was announced in last month's *Zero Beat* with many members expressing an interest at the last club meeting. To ensure that I don't miss anyone, I ask that all interested parties contact myself, Bob McCormick, KA1KPH, at 413.786.7966 to formally register your interest in the program.

## President's Corner

Greetings! Hope that you all had a chance to get on and give out a few points in the January VHF Sweepstakes. It looks like the club station W1NY again placed high, maybe even in the top five in the country. Congrats to the operators and to all who made a first class effort on behalf of the club. Its interesting to note that such a fine job can be done from a location with antennas only 200 feet above sea level. Most of the other high scoring stations (such as W2SZ) make advantage of the high elevations, which is something that W1NY doesn't enjoy!

As many of you know, I've recently changed jobs. The new position puts a much larger burden on my time, eating up much of the slack I used to enjoy. I'm finding that I don't have the time to do the things I've committed to do, talk about the things I want to do. This, combined with a number of other factors, has led me to the decision to not seek another term as an HCRA officer or director.

I've been on the board for a number of years, and President for the last two. We've met most of our board set goals, as well as a number of my own personal ones. Although its time for a leadership change; new people with new ideas and goals, I hope that we can still maintain the kind of quality that you have come to expect. Although I plan to retire at the end of my term in June, I'll still be performing the task of editor of *Zero Beat*. I'm finding that this job in itself is a full time one. Its often very difficult to find the material each month to bring you a good quality newsletter. Your input is always welcome!

The real reason why I bring this to your attention at an early date is to attempt to find a few individuals who may be interested in a board member or officer position for the upcoming year. We'd gladly accept anyone who has a few hours each month to help work with the

club's future direction. Its like pulling teeth each year when the board has to search for new board members. If you are interested in working on the board, or even maybe even holding an office, please see me or any of the other board members at the next meeting. Remember, all members are welcome at the board meetings, which are usually held the next Tuesday following the club meetings.

As for what I hope to be doing in the future, well my plans are many. My first love is CW DX, and I hope to get a little more of that in this spring. I've missed a number of good DXpeditions..... I've also got my eyes set on some 33cm work after the W1JR and W1RIL presentation at a club meeting this fall. Some improvements and new functionality for my 70cm repeater have been sitting around for over a year; time to get to them, too. A dream I have is to work in a position closer to the League, possibly helping to get a program started to allow a choice of call signs. And of course, I'd like to spend a little more time with the family. Sometimes many of us forget that Amateur Radio is just a hobby..... something I've been guilty of many times!

73 for now de Bob KA1KPH

## For Sale

Gent Lam, WA1CQF, has the following items for sale. You can contact him at 413.562.7100. A 300 watt 12 VDC to 120 VAC inverter, 60 hertz, frequency controled and metered \$50.00.

Transformer for a heavy duty 12 VDC supply, 120 VAC primary, 20 VCT secondary at 20 amps continuous duty \$12.00. Gel-Cell batteries, 12 VDC at 20 amp-hours \$4.00 each. A 1/2 HP 120 VAC motor, with capacitor start, 1725 RPM, 5/8 inch shaft \$20.00. A 1500 watt, 120 VAC fan forced electric heater, surface or flush mount, with built in thermostat \$15.00. Magnecraft SPDT 250 watt rated RF relays with 12 VDC coils for \$15.00 each. Simpson 260 VOM in excellent condition for \$60.00.

## Thanks

This issue of *ZERO BEAT* was brought to you by: The *ARRL Letter*, KA1KPH, YCCC *SCUTILEBUT*, CQ, WA1EYF, N1DPM, K1BE

## For Sale

Steve, WA1HFF, has the following items for sale. Please contact him after 6PM at 413.739.0418.

Heath HW101 plus power supply \$200.00. Heath SB300 receiver \$75. Johnson Viking II transmitter plus VFO \$75.00. Johnson Ranger I transmitter \$80.00. Hallicrafter S71 general coverage receiver \$40.00. All equipment is in good condition, unmodified, and includes manuals.

## MTARA Flea Market

The Mount Tom Amateur Repeater Association will again have an early spring flea market to be held Sunday, March 1st, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Granby Road, Chicopee, MA. Vendors will be allowed in at 7AM, with the public admitted at 10AM. Tables are \$8 if you pre-register and \$10 at the door. Admission is \$2, with spouses and children free. There will also be local hams available to help with loading and unloading of vehicles. More information or registrations can be made by calling Micky, N1CDR, at 562-1027 in the evening.

## FCC Notes

Patience is a virtue.....FCC processing of amateur licenses at its Gettysburg, PA facility is running six to eight weeks behind as of the first of the year. Maybe they ran out of computer forms again?!

In a recent news release the Commission said that between the start of the VEC program on December 1, 1983, through October 31, 1986, VEC's had coordinated 6,784 sessions where 86,533 people took an amateur examination. Approximately 60% of the applicants passed at least one examination element. The FCC also noted that VEC's and VE's were doing outstanding work in screening the applications sent to the FCC. Between October, 1985 through October, 1986, less than 0.5% of the applications were defective. Also, 97% of the applications were forwarded to the FCC within the 10 day time period allowed. Kudos to all those who have helped out with the VE program.

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If you are an Amateur Extra class licensee and would like to participate as an examiner, please contact Yorke Phillips, K1BXE, or call or write the ARRL/VEC, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Their number is area code 203 666-1541. All that is required is an open book test that they will provide you. Shortly thereafter you too can be wearing the badge of an ARRL/VEC certified volunteer examiner.

## SCCA Rally

The New England Region of the SCCA will hold a divisional pro rally on June 20th in Plymouth, Vermont. The Coolidge Forest Pro Rally III is a stage rally with over 50 miles of competitive stages run in the Coolidge Forest area of central Vermont. The event requires a special license and special equipment. Last year a number of local hams made the trip to Vermont to assist with the local race communications, and our help is again requested this year.

There are many different types of rallies. The New England Region SCCA conducts rallies that fall into two broad categories - Road Rallies and Pro Rallies.

A road rally, or more properly, a Time Speed Distance (TSD) road rally, is a precise driving competition between cars on public roads following a route at below legal speed.

Pro (stage) rallies are high speed runs over closed roads varying in length from less than one mile to over 20 miles. These roads are usually unpaved forest roads belonging to state, federal, or private land owners that can easily be closed to protect both the contestant and the public. Unlike TSD rallies, pro rallies only designate the route to take; there is no speed given: the fastest car wins!

Rally events are run about one every two to three weeks, January through November. They cover the full range of TSD rallying and pro events. The rallies are run regardless of the prevailing weather!

The race committee needs a number of volunteers to provide communications. Operators will be needed on Saturday June 20th (the weekend before Field Day) from 11:00 AM thru 11:30 PM. Limited accommodations are available, both in local inns and campgrounds. If you are interested please contact Bob McCormick, KA1KPH, for more information.

## For Sale

The following items are from the estate of KA1DWP. If you are interested in any of these items please contact Dave Norton, KA1MZZ, at 413.667.3453.

Siltronix 1011-D amateur transceiver; Drake MN-7 antenna tuner; Kwkan dummy load; Palomar SWR/watt meter; Wawasee electronics SRW/watt meter; Sencore color analyzer model CA122; Conar R/C tester model 311; Conar signal tracer model 230; Conar model 211 VTVM; EICO flyback yolk tester model 944; Conar tube tester model 220; Two caddies of misc. tubes; Two picture tubes; Degausser and misc. TV books.

## Awards

The HCRA board of directors has approved a number of nice awards to be issued to local hams that participate in the January VHF Sweepstakes. These awards will be issued for a number of different categories. They will be engraved with the year, call, and score for each class. These trophies will be issued for ten years, after which they will be retired. The winner of each award will be able to hold the trophy in their shack for a year when they'll have to compete again to keep it. Award winners will be announced in a forthcoming issue of *Zero Beat* in N1DPM's column 6m and Up.

So don't forget to send in your logs today: there's still time. Mail them to the HCRA, Inc., P.O. Box 482, West Springfield, MA 01090-0482. If you have any problems filling out the forms, just sign in the space provided, and mail the package to the above address. We'll figure out your score for you, and forward your logs to the ARRL. If you've already sent your logs to the League, and would like to be considered for a club award, please send us a copy of your summary sheet.



Thanks to Billy Lunt, KR1R, YCCC  
SCUTTLEBUT and Frank Anzalone,  
W1WY, CQ for the following contest dates:

1987

Jan	23-25	CQ WW 160m CW
	24-25	73 40m & 75m SSB
	24-1	Novice Roundup
Feb	20-22	CQ WW 160m SSB
	21-22	DX Test CW
Mar	7-8	DX Test SSB
	28-29	CQ WW WPS SSB
Apr	13	144 MHz sprint
	21	220 MHz sprint
	29	432 MHz sprint
May	8	902 MHz sprint
	14	1296 MHz sprint
	23-24	50 MHz sprint
Jun	13-15	June VHF contest
	27-28	Field Day
Jul	11-12	IARU HF contest
Aug	1-2	UHF contest
Sep	12-14	September VHF contest
Nov	7-9	Sweepstakes CW
	21-23	Sweepstakes SSB
Dec	4-6	160m contest
	12-13	10m contest

Please consult CQ or QST for more  
information on the above listed contests  
and events.

### Latest Calls

The following is a list of the last call sign  
issued in each group as of December 1.

Novice = KA1PEV  
Tech/General = N1EMS  
Advanced = KC1BF  
Extra = N1IJ

### Meeting Schedule

The following is the HCRA Meeting  
Schedule for the rest of the year.  
Club meetings are held usually on  
the first Friday of each month at the  
Feeding Hills Congregational  
Church, in the center of Feeding  
Hills at the intersection of routes 57  
& 187. The dates are: February  
6th, March 6th, April 3rd, May 1st,  
June 5th. The June meeting will be  
our annual meeting, banquet, and  
awards presentation. Possible future  
meetings will bring discussions on  
HF propagation, scatter, weather,  
two way radio, and more in the  
works! See you at the meeting.

### HCRA Meetings

First Friday of each month at  
Feeding Hills Congregational Church  
Center of Feeding Hills  
Intersection of routes 57 & 187  
Doors open at 7:30 PM  
Meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM  
*All hams are welcome to attend!*

### HCRA Repeaters

KA1JJM/R 147.105 mhz  
KA1KPH/R 449.175 mhz  
W1NY-1 145.010 pkt  
W1HGJ/R 426.250 atv

**Next Meeting**  
**February 6, 1987**

### Need more information?

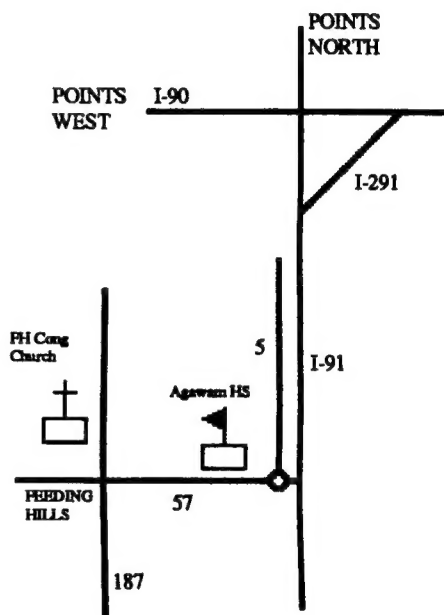
The following hams are ready  
to answer your questions on:

- HCRA & ARRL membership
- Upcoming HCRA meetings
- ARRL/VEC exams

### Please call...

Yorke Phillips K1BXE 566-3010  
Steve Nelson WA1EYF 596-8216  
Ray Burk WB1GLX 730-2774 days  
Ray Burk WB1GLX 596-6403 eves  
Ned Carpenter NB1R 596-4625

Or write directly to the club!



**Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.**  
**P O Box 482**  
**West Springfield MA 01090-0482**

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